



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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September 11, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH: APPROVAL TO ACCEPT TWO
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS WITH ALTAMED HEALTH SERVICES
AND WATTS HEALTHCARE CORPORATION FOR THE
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve and instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH), or his designee, to enter into and sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Exhibit I, between DPH and AltaMed Health Services (AHS), to assist in DPH's participation in the research project entitled "The Impact of Social Support Networks on Engagement in HIV Care among publicly Insured African Americans and Latinos in Los Angeles County," effective upon date of Board approval through June 30, 2008, with a provision for a one-year automatic renewal through June 30, 2009, with no financial reimbursement by either party and at no net County cost.
2. Approve and instruct the Director of DPH, or his designee, to enter into and sign an MOA, Exhibit II, between DPH and Watts Healthcare Corporation (WHC), to assist in DPH's participation in the research project entitled "Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) - Young Men having Sex with Men Demonstration Project," effective upon date of Board approval through August 31, 2009, with no financial reimbursement by either party and at no net County cost.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The principal aims of the MOAs are to permit DPH staff to conduct research activities at the AHS and WHC sites and to define the role of AHS and WHC in supporting these research activities at their sites (including, but not limited to, participant record and information confidentiality). Approval of these MOAs will facilitate the conduction of innovative research on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) health disparities, increase the quality and quantity of HIV health disparities research, and train new researchers to conduct health disparities research. Specifically, DPH was awarded the Universitywide AIDS Research Program's (UARP) Los Angeles Collaborative HIV/AIDS Public Health Research Center grant (Grant Agreement Number CH05-LAC-617) to conduct outreach to African American and Latino men who have sex with men (MSM), ages 13 to 24 years, and to engage approximately 300 clients who are HIV positive to participate in a randomized trial of integrated case management (ICM) that will provide adherence support, and medical and prevention case management. DPH was awarded the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Projects of National Significance (SPNS) - Young Men having Sex with Men Demonstration Project grant (Notice of Grant Award Number 6 H97HA03783-01-01) to evaluate the role of formal and informal social networks on promoting engagement in HIV treatment among African American and Latino patients at two large public HIV clinics in Los Angeles County.

Approval of these recommended actions will allow DPH to ensure that AHS and WHC maintain research project records and information confidentiality including, but not limited to, participant records in accordance with all federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and directives relating to confidentiality. Evaluation activities include, but are not limited to, development of study instruments, administration of the informed consent, client interviews and follow-ups, data collection, data entry, monitoring of data, and statistical analysis. All data collection activities will be conducted in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

AltaMed Health Services

Approval of the MOA will allow DPH to place project staff at the AHS Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic for two to three days per week to recruit HIV-positive African American and Latino MSM, to conduct survey interviews and to abstract data from study participants' medical records in Los Angeles County effective from the date of Board approval through June 30, 2008, with a provision for a one-year automatic renewal through June 30, 2009. The survey interviews will be used to assess social support and social networks, HIV history, HIV care utilization, mental and physical health, stigma around HIV, and substance use. The medical record abstraction will collect information on clinical measures related to HIV and health care utilization, such as hospitalization, emergency room visits and outpatient

visits. The survey and medical record data will be analyzed to determine whether patients' social support and social networks impact their health care utilization.

Watts Healthcare Corporation

Approval of the MOA will allow DPH to provide outreach to young African American and Latino MSM, providing assistance with appropriate referrals and/or linkages to ICM and with accessing other HIV care and treatment services through August 31, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no cost or financial impact to DPH during the term of these MOAs with AHS and WHC.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In January 2005, the Department of Health Services (DHS) and Drew University submitted a joint research application to UARP to administer a program supporting AIDS research.

On July 15, 2005, UARP informed DHS (now DPH) of its intent to award the County of Los Angeles a grant Agreement in the amount of \$238,047 for the period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. They indicated that anticipated second year funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 would be approximately \$369,569, and that funding for FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09 would be determined by UARP at a later date. Grant Agreement Number CH05-LAC-617 allows DPH to participate in a collaborative HIV/AIDS behavioral and intervention research activities project with Drew University, to design, administer, and implement innovative research on HIV health disparities.

On October 11, 2005, your Board approved Grant Agreement Number CH05-LAC-617 from UARP, for the period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$238,047 as well as delegated authority to the Director, or his designee, to accept and sign any forthcoming grant agreements and/or amendments to Grant Agreement Number CH05-LAC-617 for FYs 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, subject to review and approval by Chief Executive Office and County Counsel and notification of the Board offices.

SPNS

In 2005, DHS was awarded a five-year project funded through HRSA with an initial budget period of September 1, 2004, through August 31, 2005, with the project term ending August 31, 2009. The project provided funding to develop and implement an innovative, unique adaptation of outreach, care and prevention services designed to bring Young MSM

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(YMSM) into care. HIV-positive YMSM are referred into one of two ICM programs at Oasis Clinic (for African-Americans) and AltaMed (for Latinos).

The project has responded to all of the SPNS initiative outreach requirements. These requirements consist of helping clients learn their HIV status, understanding the risks of infection, the benefits of knowing one's status, providing assistance in accessing HIV care, recruiting for counseling and testing services, and providing linkages to counseling and testing services. The evaluation of the project has been conducted by DPH's HIV Epidemiology Program.

On May 31, 2005, your Board authorized DHS to accept a Notice of Grant Award Number 6 H97HA03783-01-01 from HRSA in the amount of \$300,000 for the period September 1, 2004, through August 31, 2005, authorized DHS to accept awards for the continuing project period of September 1, 2005, through August 31, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000, approved a sole source Agreement with AHS in the amount of \$198,750 for HIV/AIDS SPNS services, effective on the date of Board approval through August 31, 2009.

The activities being performed under these MOAs are being done per requirements of the UARP Grant Agreement CH05-LAC-617 approved by your Board on October 11, 2005, and the HRSA Notice of Grant Award Number 6 H97HA03783-01-01 approved by your Board on May 31, 2005.

Attachment A provides additional information.

County Counsel has approved Exhibits I and II as to form.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Conduction of HIV health care studies and providing outreach to assist with appropriate referrals and linkages to ICM will improve services provided to individuals affected by HIV and AIDS.

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CONCLUSION

The Department of Public Health requires four signed copies of the Board's action. It is requested that the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, notify the Department of Public Health, Contracts and Grants Division, at (213) 240-8179 when this document is available.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:SRH:SAS
DRJ:RM:bjs

Attachments (3)

c: County Counsel
Director and Health Officer, Department of Public Health

ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY OF MOAs

1. TYPE OF SERVICES:

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) HIV Epidemiology Program anticipates participating in collaborative HIV/AIDS research activities with AltaMed Health Services (AHS) and Watts Healthcare Corporation (WHC). The principal aim of the MOA's are to conduct innovative research on HIV health disparities, increase the quality and quantity of HIV health disparities research, and train new researchers to conduct health disparities research.

2. AGENCY NAMES AND CONTACT PERSONS:

AltaMed Health Services
5427 East Whittier Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90022
Contact Person: Daniel Pearce, D.O.
Telephone No. (323) 869-5448
Fax No.: (323) 869-5427
E-mail: dpearce@altamed.org

Watts Healthcare Corporation
10300 South Compton Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90002
Contact Person: Yvette Wells
Telephone No. (323) 357-6587
Fax No.: (323) 567-7873
E-mail: Yvette.wells@wattshealth.org

3. FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

No financial reimbursement will be made by any party for services described in the MOA's with AHS effective on the date of Board of Supervisor approval through June 30, 2008, with provision for a one-year automatic renewal through June 30, 2009, and with WHC effective on the date of Board of Supervisor approval through August 31, 2008, each with no financial reimbursement by either party, and no net County cost.

4. GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED:

Countywide.

5. ACCOUNTABLE FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Douglas Frye, M.D., MPH, Director, HIV Epidemiology Program

6. APPROVALS:

Department of Public Health:	John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D., Chief Deputy Director
Contracts and Grants Division:	Gary T. Izumi, Chief
County Counsel (as to form):	Maya Lee, Deputy County Counsel

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM AND
ALTAMED HEALTH SERVICES**

I. PREFACE

This Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") will serve as a living document to describe research activities to be performed through the County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Health ("DPH") Human Immunodeficiency Virus ("HIV") Epidemiology Program ("HEP") for the Universitywide AIDS Research Program ("UARP"), Award Notice CH05-LAC-617, "The Impact of Social Support Networks on Engagement in HIV Care among publicly Insured African Americans and Latinos in Los Angeles County." The goal of this project is to examine the association between social support systems and social network characteristics and retention in consistent HIV care for publicly-insured African-Americans and Latino in Los Angeles County. Current provisions and detail are given below.

II. INTENT OF SERVICES

The intent of this MOA is to describe the research activities to be conducted by HEP at the AHS Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic location for the duration of the project.

This MOA between the two parties signing below will allow HEP to place project staff at the AltaMed Health Services ("AHS") Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic for two to three days per week to recruit for the project, to conduct survey interviews, and to abstract data from study participants' medical records through June 30, 2008, with provision for a one year automatic renewal commencing date of Board of Supervisors approval through June 30, 2009, with no financial reimbursement by either party, and at no net County cost.

III. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

1. HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM (HEP)

HEP will recruit HIV-positive African-American and Latino men who have sex with men (MSM) who receive their HIV medical care services at the AHS Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic.

HEP will obtain informed consent and conduct an hour-long survey with eligible participants. HEP will also collect data from participant medical records on clinical outcomes and health care utilization.

HEP will conduct the data collection activities for this project. Data collection activities include, but are not limited to: development of study instruments, administration of the informed consent, client interviews, medical record abstraction, data entry, monitoring of data, and statistical analysis. All data collection activities will be

conducted in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

HEP will maintain the confidentiality of its records and information including, but not limited to, client/patient records in accordance with all federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and directives relating to confidentiality.

2. ALTAMED HEALTH SERVICES

AHS will provide oversight of the Social Support Networks and HIV Project at the Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic by ensuring adherence to protocols, monitoring progress, and provision of guidance and supervision to the research staff.

AHS will provide oversight of medical standards of care and monitoring HIV related outcome measures within the Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic patient population participating in the Social Support Networks and HIV study.

AHS will assist in the planning and implementing coordinated activities with the Principal Investigator, the Co-Investigators, the Project Coordinator and other staff at the Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic.

AHS will allow HEP project staff to recruit participants for this project at the Daniel V. Lara HIV Clinic and will encourage their services providers to refer clients to this project.

AHS will provide space utilization for HEP project staff for a period of time described later in the MOA.

AHS will allow HEP staff to access medical records for clients in Integrated Case Manager ("ICM") to collect data on viral load, CD4 count (laboratory test measuring immune system status), opportunistic infections, antiretroviral therapy, and health care utilization.

IV. REIMBURSEMENT/PAYMENT

No reimbursement will be made by any party to any party for services described herein.

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V. TERM

This MOA will remain in effect during the period of date of Board approval through June 30, 2008, with a one year automatic renewal upon agreement of both parties. It can be changed at any time with the written agreement of both parties.

Signatures:

Daniel Pearce, DO, Director of Research
AltaMed Health Services

Date

Douglas Frye, Director
County of Los Angeles –
Department of Public Health HIV Epidemiology Program

Date

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM AND
WATTS HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

I. PREFACE

This Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") will serve as a living document to describe integrated case management services to be performed through the County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Health ("DPH") Human Immunodeficiency Virus ("HIV") Epidemiology Program ("HEP") for the Special Projects of National Significance ("SPNS") Young men having sex with men ("MSM") Demonstration Project: HIV Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome ("AIDS") Integrated Case Management ("ICM") services. These services are designed to bring young HIV-positive African-American and Latino MSM into HIV/AIDS care. This project is one of eight sites funded nationally through the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant No. H97HA03783 and includes goals and objectives that are relevant to the work of both the Office of AIDS Program and Policy ("OAPP") and HEP. Current provisions and detail are given below.

II. INTENT OF SERVICES

The intent of this MOA is to describe ICM and evaluation services to be provided through HEP at the Watts Healthcare Corporation ("WHC") location for the duration of the project.

This MOA between the two parties signing below will allow HEP to place ICM staff at WHC for two to three days per week to deliver ICM to young men ages 13 – 24 commencing date of Board of Supervisors approval through August 31, 2009.

III. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

1. HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM (HEP)

HEP will provide outreach to the target populations, young African-American and Latino MSM, providing assistance with appropriate referrals and/or linkages to ICM and with accessing other HIV care and treatment services at WHC.

HEP will provide ICM services to young African-American and Latino males ages 13 – 24 to assist these men in accessing, maintaining and adhering to HIV/AIDS medical care and treatment at WHC. The two-year intervention will consist of meeting with the clients weekly for the first two months and then monthly for the next 22 months. After 24 months, the clients will be transitioned into standard case management services provided at WHC.

HEP will provide the evaluation for this project. Evaluation activities include, but are not limited to: development of study instruments, administration of the informed consent, client interviews and follow-ups, data collection, data entry, monitoring of

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Watts Healthcare Corporation
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data, and statistical analysis. All data collection activities will be conducted in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

HEP will maintain the confidentiality of its records and information including, but not limited to, client/patient records in accordance with all federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and directives relating to confidentiality.

2. WATTS HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

WHC will allow HEP outreach worker to provide outreach services in coordination with the mobile health vans offering HIV counseling and testing services at WHC.

WHC will provide space utilization for ICM for a period of time described later in the MOA.

WHC will provide medical care services for HIV-positive youth in the ICM program. In addition, WHC will allow HEP staff to access medical records for clients in ICM to collect data on viral load, CD4 count (laboratory test measuring immune system status), opportunistic infections, antiretroviral therapy, and health care utilization.

WHC will work with HEP and OAPP staff to develop culturally-appropriate HIV care services for youth of color.

IV. REIMBURSEMENT/PAYMENT

No reimbursement will be made by any party to any party for services described herein.

V. TERM

This MOA will remain in effect during the period of date of Board approval through August 31, 2009. It can be changed at any time with the agreement of both parties.

Signatures:

William Hobson, Executive Director
Watts Healthcare Corporation

Date

Douglas Frye, M.D., M.P.H. Director
County of Los Angeles – Department of
Public Health HIV Epidemiology Program

Date